



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Department of Health

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Important Information on Tetanus

Tetanus is an acute, often fatal disease, which causes severe muscle spasm, including spasms of the mouth and jaw (lockjaw). Tetanus spores are usually introduced into the body through a puncture wound contaminated with soil, street dust, animal or human feces; through lacerations, burns and trivial or unnoticed wounds or by injected contaminated drugs (e.g., street drugs).

With recent flooding in the area, children and adults may be at increased risk for exposure to tetanus and should seek medical advice regarding a tetanus shot as soon as possible. The average incubation period is 10 days, although it may range from 1 day to several months. A booster dose of tetanus vaccine is recommended every 10 years. The Manchester Health Department provides childhood immunizations free of charge and adult tetanus vaccine (Td) for a fee of \$10.00 during the following clinic times:

Monday 1:30-3:30 pm

Tuesday 9:00-11:30 am

First and fourth Thursday of each month: 4:00-6:00 pm

For additional information on immunization, including tetanus vaccine, we encourage residents to contact the Manchester Health Department at 624-6466.